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Weekend, November 17-19, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: [illegible]ly

WINTER ARTS GUIDE

Find out what shows are worth braving the cold for. 17-24

'Game of Thrones' musical paradoy coming to Philly. 22

Oscar shoo-in 'Mudbound.' 28

KICK 'EM WHILE THEY'RE DOWN

The Eagles have a golden opportunity Sunday to beat down rival Cowboys, without Ezekiel Elliott and several other key players. 29-30

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Alexandre Hughes and Ian Hussey. Photo: © Nic D'Amico.

WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

EVAN MACY, SPORTS EDITOR

It seems like it's been longer than two weeks since we saw the Eagles pummel the Broncos to jump to 8-1 and the NFL's best record. Since that time, the Eagles have become the talk of sports-radio not only in Philadelphia but across the country. Are they shoo-ins for the No. 1 seed in the NFC? Is Carson Wentz the NFL's MVP? Did their trade for Jay Ajayi put them over the top? Finally, some actual football will be played as the Eagles return from their bye week to face the Cowboys, in Dallas, on Sunday Night Football. **Pages 29-30**

LAWMAKERS WANT MORE INFO FROM KUSHNER

1 The leaders of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee said on Thursday they had not received information they requested from President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, including emails, phone records and documents related to communications with former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn. In a letter to Abbe Lowell, Kushner's attorney, Senators Chuck Grassley and Dianne Feinstein requested all those documents, as well as transcripts from interviews with other committees. Among requested documents, which they described as known to exist but not provided to the Judiciary Committee, were the phone records and emails to Kushner concerning WikiLeaks and a "Russian backdoor overture and dinner invite," both forwarded by Kushner.

TRIAL OF SEN. MENENDEZ ENDS IN MISTRIAL

2 The corruption trial of New Jersey's Democratic U.S. Senator Bob Menendez ended in a mistrial on Thursday, after the jury said it was hopelessly deadlocked on bribery, fraud and other charges. Menendez, 63, a longtime fixture in the state's political circles who first joined the Senate in 2006, was accused of accepting private flights, campaign contributions and other bribes from a wealthy patron, Florida ophthalmologist Salomon Melgen, in exchange for official favors. The hung jury was a victory for Menendez and a major setback for federal prosecutors in what was the Justice Department's first high-profile corruption trial since a U.S. Supreme Court decision last year limited its ability to bring such cases. One juror, Ed Norris, told reporters the panel was split 10-2 in favor of acquittal.

FRANCE LABOR STRIKE

3 A riot police officer holds an orange flare during a nationwide protest day against the government's economic and social reforms, on Thursday in Nantes, France.

GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

J&J WINS SUIT CLAIMING TALC CAUSED CANCER

4 A California jury on Thursday ruled in favor of Johnson & Johnson in a lawsuit by a woman who said she developed the cancer mesothelioma after being exposed to asbestos in the company's talc-based products including J&J's Baby Powder. The Los Angeles Superior Court jury's verdict, watched by a Reuters reporter through an online broadcast by Courtroom View Network, came in the first trial centering on claims that J&J's talc products contained asbestos. J&J is separately battling thousands of cases claiming those products can cause ovarian cancer. The lawsuit was filed by Tina Herford, who said she developed mesothelioma after using J&J talcum powder products that her lawyers claimed contained asbestos. J&J said in a statement it was pleased with the verdict.

TV, BETTER PICTURES BUT LESS PRIVACY

5 The Federal Communications Commission voted 3-2 to allow broadcasters to voluntarily use a new technology to improve picture quality and allow better reception on mobile phones and give advertisers more data about viewing habits. The new standard would allow for more precise geolocating of television signals, ultra-high definition picture quality and more interactive programming. Current televisions cannot carry the new signal and the FCC only requires broadcasting both signals for five years after deploying the next-generation technology. "That means every one of us will need to replace our television sets or buy new equipment," said Democratic Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel. "The FCC calls this approach market driven. That's right — because we will all be forced into the market for new television sets or devices."

TONY'S METRO MAGIC 2017

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Defense attorney Joe Tacopina, seen visiting a soccer stadium in football in 2015, is representing rapper Meek Mill. GETTY IMAGES

Meek Mill's lawyer predicts rapper's freedom is near

The high-powered New York defense lawyer for the Philly rapper talks strategy.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Meek Mill's recent imprisonment sparked widespread cries to free the Philly-born hip-hop star, but all the tweets in the world won't do anything to get the rapper out of Camp Hill prison.

Something that might make a difference is Meek's powerhouse defense attorney, Joe Tacopina, who asserted Thursday that his "top priority" is freeing the rapper.

"We are going to get him out," said Tacopina. He called from Italy, where he has been watching the Venice soccer team he co-owns go on a winning spree, to describe his legal strategy: moving for the recusal of the judge and referring her to the judicial committee for disciplinary proceedings, as well as motions for reconsideration regarding Meek's bail. "I'm very confident he will be out soon."

That may be increasingly urgent because on Thursday, TMZ broke the story that Meek's legal team has filed papers seeking for him to be removed from solitary confinement in protective custody, saying he is a "victim of his celebrity" and could face psychological damage from ongoing isolation.

Meek Mill, 31, born Robert Rihmeek Williams, remains on probation for a 2008 gun possession case. His original sentence came with five years of probation, but it was extended after he was found in 2014 by Judge Genece Brinkley to have violated his probation and was put into custody for five months.

Brinkley has declined to comment on any allegations against her.

But Tacopina claimed Brinkley has a vendetta against Meek. He argued in court papers it was sparked after she invited Meek and his then-girlfriend, hip-hop diva Nicki Minaj, into chambers, where she asked Meek to cover Boyz II Men's classic "On Bended Knee," a request Meek did not honor.

"It is a fact that a judge making personal requests of an individual who is a defendant before her is inappropriate judicial conduct," Tacopina said.

Tacopina maintained that he believes Brinkley intended to punish Meek for not leaving his professional management team at Roc Nation (Jay-Z's company) for the company of Philly-based Charlie Alston Mack (who manages Boyz II Men, among other artists).

"Eight times over a year and a half, she asked him to change his management to Charlie Mack," Tacopina claimed. "This isn't a conspiracy theory. It's one individual who acted very inappropriately."

Rumors are also swirling about the case online, with Page Six and TMZ both reporting that the FBI is investigating Brinkley's conduct. The judge is rumored to be seeking legal representation of her own.

While some in Philadelphia say Meek is responsible for his own actions and deserved a two- to four-year sentence, Tacopina scoffed at the three "violations" Meek was found to have committed.

Dirtbiking in NYC? The charge was dismissed, and other males filmed biking at the time were not arrested, Tacopina said. Fighting in the St. Louis airport? Started by two over-aggressive fans, was considered self-defense and was ultimately dismissed as well, Tacopina said. Even testing positive for Percocet did not move prosecutors or probation officers to ask for Meek's imprisonment, and Brinkley went against their recommendations in ordering the sentence.

"Where is the violation?" Tacopina asked. "This judge is really a pariah – someone who brings disrepute to the bench and someone who is not very well-regarded. There's real internal outrage over what's going on."

"This isn't a conspiracy theory. It's one individual who acted very inappropriately."

Joe Tacopina

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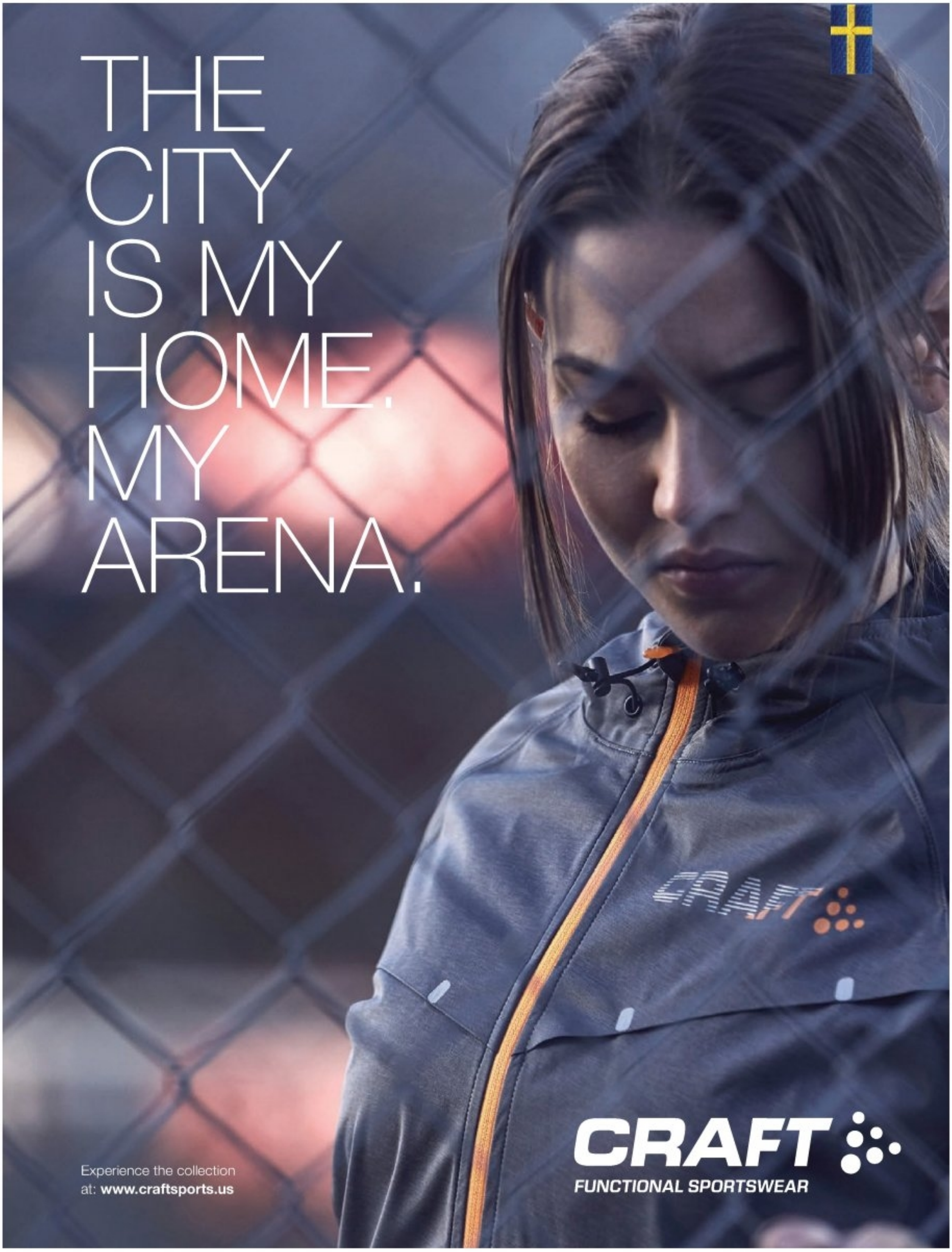
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City Councilwoman Helen Gym speaks at a protest outside School District headquarters in May 2016. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

School Reform Commission votes to dissolve itself

Philly schools will soon revert to local control.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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The state-controlled School Reform Commission, born in 2001, voted at its Thursday night meeting to dissolve itself, a major step in the long and tangled history of public education in Philly.

"Many of us have been waiting for today for a long, long time," said City Councilwoman Helen Gym in prepared remarks at the meeting, in which she recalled attending meetings 16 years ago to oppose the state's takeover of Philly schools via the School Reform Commission (SRC). "For 16 years, I've come to the SRC often to testify, but tonight I come to say thanks."

The board's vote to dissolve itself came as the school district has seen balanced budgets and new hires for the first time in years under Superintendent Dr. William Hite, as well as a new contract with teachers.

In joint testimony to the SRC, Mayor Jim Kenney and City Council President Darrell Clarke touted the School District's positive strides in arguing for the SRC's lack of utility, noting the city has chipped in "$500 million in new recurring annual revenue over the past six years" to support schools.

"The school district has had multiple years of balanced budgets," they said. "The District now has contracts with each of its bargaining units, and there have been improvements in both student test score achievement and the high school graduation rate. We believe now is the right time to return to local control."

Kenney has argued that a Board of Education, with local membership, reporting to the mayor, would offer the most accountability to students and parents.

But with no SRC, the process of getting to local control will still take several months.

Over the years, many accusations have been lobbed at the SRC – including that it took a pro-charter school slant, which some say prompted the closure of more than two dozen schools in 2013.

"The state's decision to take away local control of Philadelphia schools was also a move to turn over large chunks of our school system to for-profit companies," Gym, who has been heavily critical of charter schools, said in her remarks. "The takeover was a massive educational experiment on black and brown and immigrant children – from reckless charter expansion to mass school closings. These were strategies not backed by any educational research, they didn't solve the existing and terrible problems within the district, and they hurt far too many children."

Only time will tell if the future Board of Education does any better, but one group who was celebrating Thursday: Philly's teachers.

As the School Reform Commission voted in favor of its own demise, the decision was lauded by the Philly Federation of Teachers, who organized an "#SRCYaLater" rally outside the School District of Philadelphia, attended by national teachers union leader Randi Weingarten.

"PFT members have taken to the streets over the years to protest the SRC's many destructive actions," PFT President Jerry Jordan said in a statement. "On Thursday, we'll be outside to celebrate the end of this failed experiment."

"... there have been improvements in both student test score achievement and the high school graduation rate. We believe now is the right time to return to local control."

Mayor Jim Kenney and City Council President Darrell Clarke

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Philly's Peek-A-Boo Revue gets down to business and education

Peek-A-Boo Revue's amateur dancers went through burlesque boot camp to hit the stage this weekend.

A.D. AMOROSI
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Whether you call them neo-burlesque, vaudeville or just the finest, bawdiest entertainment export this city has to offer, Philly's Peek-A-Boo Revue has been wowing audiences since 1998.

But they'll close out 2017 with something new: November 18's debut student showcase at Franky Bradley's, after an eight-week boot camp at the troupe's Philadelphia Burlesque Academy in Fishtown.

Run by managing director Cherry Bomb, the boot-camp intensive was an all-sweat, no-joke hardcore class in physicalizing one's theatrical character backstory, its development on stage and its necessary minutiae such as makeup, costuming and choreography.

Watching instructors Bomb and Ginger Leigh, the troupe's creative director, teach a class makes it clear: Burlesque is no easy feat.

"I cannot fully predict how I'll feel performing burlesque [after this class], but I'm ready for the ride of my life," said Maria Palumbo, one of seven students between the ages of 23 to 43.

The Academy itself is now five years old, and Bomb stated that "10-plus students have gone on to perform regularly within the burlesque community, some even producing their own events."

Peek-A-Boo Revue has been performing since 1998. CHRIS KOONTZ/CHRISKPHOTOGRAPHY

In a world where women must protect themselves against aggressors, Bomb is both teacher and mother hen to her students.

"I want to make sure the experience they have in class with us is as positive and encouraging as possible," she said. "Being sexy and serious in a room full of others takes some practice."

Boiling it down to essentials, the eight-week dance camp focused on the dramatics of burlesque — crafting a name, image and performance skill set such as etiquette, poise "and everything else we could cram," stated Bomb. "I don't know if any of them were quite prepared for how emotional creating art can be."

"I did this on a whim, knowing it wasn't like me," said Palumbo, 32. "I was raised in a way that acting sexually, showing off the body, was wrong. I performed liturgical dance at my church."

Bomb and her fellow instructors insisted that these students remain open-minded and ready to work, and she stated that they got that and more from their initial boot camp's students.

"This group of ladies meshed well together and are so supportive of each other, it's crazy inspiring," Bomb said.

Bomb added that each of her seven dancers are primed and ready for Saturday night, and for more than a possible career in burlesque. "I want these women to take that feeling of bad-assery that they evoke in the studio into their everyday lives," she said. "To walk with confidence into that work meeting or whatever it may be knowing that they are a cool, interesting, sexy, individual who should be celebrated."

Catch the Peek-A-Boo Revue!

Peek-A-Boo has its usual slate of holiday shows coming up soon.
12/9: The Queen, Wilmington, DE
12/16: Mauch Chunk Opera House, Jim Thorpe, PA
12/17: World Cafe Live, West Philly.

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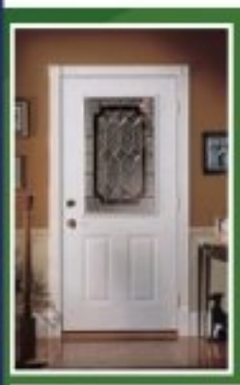

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GOVERNMENT TRYING TO KILL BICYCLE COMMUTER TAX BENEFIT

RANDY LOBASSO

Analysis

In their most recent attempt to overhaul the federal tax code, elected officials have touted their new plan as being good for low-income and middle-class people.

In its current form, the U.S. Senate's tax bill ends deductions for state and local taxes, among other things. But this column is about bicycling. And I'll have you know that bicyclists, too, will be punished in the tax overhaul.

One of the deductions the government is trying to kill to pay for their massive tax breaks is the Bicycle Commuter Benefit. The Bicycle Commuter Benefit was created in 2009 as a way to encourage more people to commute by bicycle — and more businesses to encourage their employees to do so.

It does so by allowing any employer to provide a reimbursement of up to $20 per month for "reasonable expenses" incurred by the employee who bikes to work.

It's a pretty simple and modest benefit, a no-brainer for employers and helps reduce the need for cities to provide street-level parking. It's being adopted by Philadelphia employers who see the obvious benefits of such a program.

And what's even weirder about killing the bike commuter benefit is how the U.S. government wants to keep commuter benefits for those who drive cars. The tax plan keeps in place a program which allows employees to use up to $225 per month in pre-tax income pay for transit vouchers, commuter highway fares and parking fees.

None of this too surprising. Federal tax cuts in the recent political era have always been about an upward transfer of wealth to appease super-wealthy campaign funders. But that doesn't make this new cynical attempt to cut taxes for the wealthy — and benefits for everyone else — any less disappointing.

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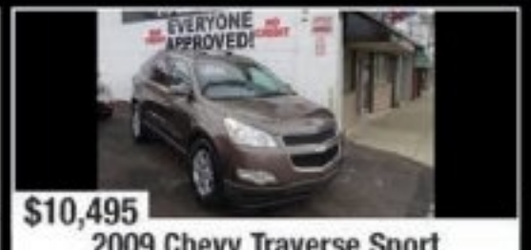

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Radio host says she was groped, kissed by Sen. Al Franken

The incident happened during a USO tour in 2006.

LENYON WHITAKER
@MetroPhilly
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A radio and TV host has come forward to accuse Sen. Al Franken of groping and kissing her without her consent in 2006.

Leeann Tweeden, a former model and actress and now a radio anchor and in Los Angeles, says Franken made lewd gestures at her during a USO tour in December 2006. She also says Franken kissed her forcibly while they were performing for troops during the tour.

Tweeden published a personal essay Thursday morning to TalkRadio 798 KABC in Los Angeles, where she is a morning news anchor.

Sen. Al Franken has been accused of groping a woman while on a USO tour. GETTY IMAGES

In it says Franken forced her to kiss him and later groped her breasts, an act that was photographed.

Tweeden included the photograph of Franken looking directly into the camera while apparently groping her breasts while she was asleep.

"It wasn't until I was back in the U.S. and looking through the CD of photos we were given by the photographer that I saw this one," she wrote in the essay. "He groped me, without my consent, while I was asleep."

During the tour, Tweeden was the emcee during the show, where she would introduce the next acts to the stage. Franken modified the script to include a part where he kisses her. In her story, she says she "suspected what he was after" but at the time she felt she could turn her head away or cover her mouth to make the skit funnier. Tweeden also says they were backstage rehearsing their lines and Franken insisted they "practice" the kissing scene. When it was time for the show, Tweeden said Franken "aggressively stuck his tongue" in her mouth.

Franken issued a statement about the allegations saying his intentions were to be funny.

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Abstaining from masturbation leads to monthlong 'holiday'

"No Nut November" is the holiday men didn't ask for, but need.

MEAGAN MORRIS
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

No Nut November aims to bring mental clarity and free people from porn addiction. ISTOCK

What could you accomplish if you stopped masturbating? For Alex, it was learning Spanish.

The 32-year-old told Gay Star News that he used to spend so much time worrying about sex that it nearly ruined his life. "I decided whenever I wanted to jerk off I would study Spanish," he said. "Now I'm nearly fluent."

He's not alone: Reddit's NoFap subreddit boasts over 200,000 members who believe in the powers of abstaining from masturbation. Their reasons for stopping vary, with some worrying about the power dating apps, porn and sex have over their lives. Some men are even taking it to the next level by declaring this month "No Nut November."

It wasn't created by the Reddit group NoFap, but the members support it.

"The No Nut November phenomenon is pragmatically great for organizations in the porn recovery field, as it increases people's awareness about how their sexual lifestyles might impact their daily lives," a spokesperson for the group told Newsweek. "NoFap isn't looking to ban or legislate pornography but are looking to help raise awareness so that people can make an educated decision about their porn use."

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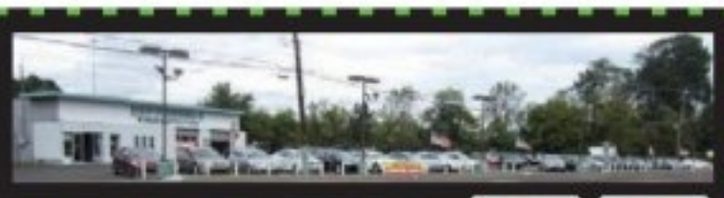

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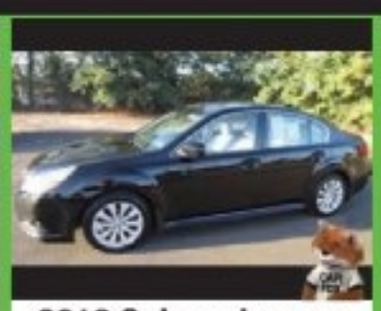
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Would you give up orgasms to see a Trump impeachment?

Remember those commercials back in the day? "What would you doooooo, for a Klondike bar?" the jingle asked. It's too cold out, so ice cream enveloped in chocolate is out of the question for this lady, but what would you doooooo for a Trump impeachment? Would you give up orgasms just to see President Donald Trump ousted from the Oval Office?

A survey by editorial brand Damn Joan asked more than 700 female and gender-nonconforming Americans whether they would give up the Big O to toss Trump, and 37 percent said, "Yes, immediately." One person even said they'd give up orgasms and wine.

Not everyone feels that way about a potential Trump impeachment. About 50 percent of those surveyed said they wouldn't give up sexual climax for anything (which is totally fair) and 17 percent said they want Trump *and* orgasms.

The Big O or The Donald? GETTY IMAGES

"We wanted to understand the role orgasms play in the lives of female and gender-nonconforming Americans," said Mikki Halpin, Damn Joan's editor in chief. "We covered the basics — how often they had orgasms, how recently, and with whom, but we also asked provocative questions like this one."

Would it be worth it to you? Would you give up orgasms for life? Or a year? Or is sexual satisfaction part of making America great again?

One person described orgasms as "really pleasant full-body sneezes" and another said they're like that feeling you get right after you finally relieve your full bladder after being "stuck in a car drinking a liter of cola for three hours."

Damn Joan gave another cheeky "would you rather" scenario: "If your social media accounts automatically announced every time you had an orgasm, what would you do?"

A whopping 62 percent said they would delete their social media accounts tout suite, but a bold 6 percent said they would start faking orgasms just to pump up their numbers.

KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA

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House of Representatives approves tax overhaul, fight shifts to Senate

Democrats have pointed to analyses showing millions of Americans could end up with a tax hike because of the elimination of popular deductions.

Republican lawmakers on Thursday took an important step toward the biggest tax code overhaul since the 1980s as the House of Representatives approved the broad package of tax cuts sought by President Donald Trump.

The tax debate now moves to the U.S. Senate, where that chamber's separate plan has already encountered resistance from some Republicans. No decisive Senate action is expected until after next week's Thanksgiving holiday.

Trump, who is looking for his first major legislative win since he took office in January, went to the U.S. Capitol just before the vote to urge House Republicans to pass the tax bill, which Democrats call a giveaway to the wealthy and businesses.

"A simple, fair and competitive tax code will be rocket fuel for our economy, and it's within our reach. Now is the time to deliver," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said after the largely party-line House vote of 227-205.

Congress has not thoroughly overhauled the sprawling U.S. tax code since Republican Ronald Reagan was president. The House measure is not as comprehensive as Reagan's 1986 sweeping package, but it is more ambitious than anything since then.

The House of Representatives passed a tax reform bill largely along party lines. GETTY IMAGES

But the path forward for the tax plan in the Senate, where Republicans have a narrow majority, is fraught with obstacles about concerns over the federal deficit, healthcare and the distribution of tax benefits. Republicans can lose no more than two Senate votes if Democrats remain united.

Senate Republican tax writers made the risky decision to tie their plan to a repeal of the requirement for people to get healthcare insurance under former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act. That exposed the tax initiative to the same political forces that wrecked Republicans' anti-Obamacare push this year.

The House bill, which is estimated to increase the federal deficit by nearly $1.5 trillion over 10 years, would consolidate individual and family tax brackets to four from seven and reduce the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent.

It also would scale back or end some popular tax deductions, including one for state and local income taxes, while preserving a capped deduction for property tax payments.

"It's a shameful piece of legislation, and the Republicans should know better," Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi told lawmakers before the vote.

Thirteen House Republicans opposed the bill, all but one from New York, New Jersey and California – states with high taxes where residents would feel the pinch from eliminating the deduction for state and local income taxes. REUTERS

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Winter Arts Preview

"I don't want to see his career ruined," says Jim Norton of Louis C.K. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Jim Norton is not who you think he is

The comedian comes to Philly at the end of November.

A.D. AMOROSI
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

When comedian Jim Norton pops his head into The Fillmore Philadelphia on Nov. 30 as part of his Kneeling Room Only tour, his stand-up will be lewd and rude, just like you expect from this legend.

The language will be coarse and cutting. No topic will be out-of-bounds, and no cow sacred will stand. "There is nothing, no matter how sensitive or fresh, that can't be made funny," said Norton. "Something can be in poor taste and mean-spirited, but it can always be funny."

What the caustic stand-up comic's audience won't hear – unless they are fans of his SiriusXM radio show "The Jim and Sam Show," or the "UFC Unfiltered with Jim Norton and Matt Serra" podcast – is how utterly charming and erudite Norton is in conversation. Fact is it is cool, artful conversation ("nothing planned, just be natural and the subject feels comfortable enough to open up"), that's made Norton's name beyond comedy, as his SiriusXM show has become a go-to hotspot for celebs and newsmakers to make pit stops.

"We just wanted to do a show that felt good," said Norton, about his show with radio partner Sam Roberts. "It just happened that our second show was when Nancy Grace walked off [she thought the pair made light of murdered children], the video went viral, and we got wild press from it overnight."

"Suddenly, every publicist wanted to book guests on our show. We didn't mean for her to walk off or to get that publicity. We did, however, get more comfortable with ourselves, doing what we wanted to do," he said. "I just ask things that I want to know."

Norton cites a November chat with Netflix's Jon Bernthal ("The Punisher"), where the actor dissed working with alleged sexual predator Kevin Spacey on the film "Baby Driver," as an organic chat that went weird. "Spacey is in the news. Bernthal worked with him. I wanted to know what it was like." (It wasn't pretty, according to the actor.) In that regard, what Norton has is a dialogue — not a monologue — with his guests, as well as a gentlemanly code of honor regarding his comedy friends.

Take Louis C.K., with whom Norton has long been pals and working associates (Norton appeared on HBO's "Lucky Louie" and FX's "Louie"). The radio host has been cool and collected — even quiet — about the rumors of C.K.'s sexual misconduct, until the comedian came clean and admitted to his misdeeds. "You really have to piss me off for me to totally unload on you. With Louis, I genuinely feel bad for my friend, and I love him as a person. But in reality, he f—d up. I don't want to see his career ruined. I'm hoping this is all there is. I'm not being politically correct by saying this, but I think that if you are working on a show, and a guy who you respect says 'Hey, I want to j—k off in front of you,' that's a terrible and uncomfortable thing to have to deal with. If you go on a Tinder date and that comes up – it's not a nice thing,but there's no power dynamic there."

Jim Norton comes to Philly for his "Kneeling Room Only" tour Nov. 30.

Like Marc Maron (who discussed his friendship and disappointment with C.K. on his "WTF" podcast), Norton said that C.K. denied all rumors of his crimes to him in confidence. "He told me several times in the last two years that they were untrue and I believed him. Those stories came without names or specific details. It's a mess."

Will Norton make fun of C.K.'s plight? Norton stated that he has already been making fun of Harvey Weinstein on stage and is slipping several Louis lines into his new act. "You have to address what is going on," said Norton. That does not mean that the skewering comedian cares much for tearing into Trump or all things on the political horizon. "I try not to hit the typical angles when joking about Trump," said Norton, looking for what he likes and dislikes about the president rather than preaching about belief systems. "That's boring. What I do is joke about Trump's level of communication. I like the fact that he's a humiliation for the entire political system. I like that he is proof that we can go outside that same political system and elect somebody. The first person to break through that wasn't a politician had to be crazy, had to be out-of-control. Maybe next time, we'll find someone more centered and palatable."

As for playing Philadelphia, the Bayonne, NewJersey-born comedian stated that he has always had a great relationship with our fair and funny city. "I've done everything from small clubs to the TLA to the Fillmore, and love having a real, honest fan base there. No joke. Philly's one of my favorite towns."

Jim Norton: Kneeling Room Only at The Fillmore Philadelphia, 29 E. Allen St. Thurs. Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. $85.-$49.50, www.thefillmorephilly.com

Post War Dream comes to Milkboy Philly on Dec. 6.
ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Vinnie Paolizzi performs a free Thanksgiving Eve show in West Chester.

York Street Hustle performs a holiday show at Union Transfer on Dec. 8.

'Tis the Season for Live Music

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The holiday season is here and while buying Christmas presents, cooking up lavish feasts and making appearances at all of those holiday parties can be fun, it can also be stressful. Going to concerts is a great way to relieve stress, no matter what kind of music you're into. From jazz to rock to R&B, there are a ton of live music events happening in and around Philadelphia to add a little soul to the holiday season.

The Jost Project
Sunday, Nov. 19
3 p.m., $10 suggested donation
First Presbyterian Church Hughes & Decatur, Cape May
thejostproject.com
Love the music of the 60s and 70s? Love jazz? Then you should check out the Philly-based jazz group The Jost Project at their Cape May show this weekend. Featuring virtuoso vocalist Paul Jost, Tony Miceli on vibraphones and Kevin MacConnell on acoustic bass, their set will have you feeling easy and breezy, even if the shore doesn't.

Vinnie Paolizzi
Wednesday, Nov. 22
8:30 p.m., Free
Boxcar Brewpub
142 E. Market St., West Chester
boxcarbrewingcompany.com
Looking for something fun and free to do the night before Thanksgiving? Check out the CD release show for local artist Vinnie Paolizzi at Boxcar Brewpub in West Chester. If you're a fan of Bruce Springsteen and Jackson Browne, you'll probably dig his guitar-driven tunes with thoughtful lyrics.

Post War Dream
Wednesday, Dec. 6
8 p.m., $8-$10
Milkboy Philly
1100 Chestnut St.
milkboyphilly.com
Love the Lumineers and Death Cab for Cutie? Maybe you should check out Philly's own Post War Dream, performing at Milkboy in December. The four-piece indie rock band draws inspiration from folk, pop as well as indie sounds to set millennial struggles to music. They will be supporting the Portland band SeepeopleS.

The York Street Hustle
Holiday Spectacular
Friday, Dec. 8
8:30 p.m., $15-$17
Union Transfer
1026 Spring Garden St.
utphilly.com
This 10-piece Motown band has gone from performing tiny bars on South Street to repeatedly selling out World Cafe Live. With a repertoire of more than 90 songs covering Detroit, Memphis and Chicago soul, they're bringing their annual holiday show to Union Transfer for an unforgettable night of good times.

A Night for Cranberry
Wednesday, Dec. 20
6 p.m., $10
World Cafe Live (Upstairs)
3025 Walnut St.
worldcafelive.com
How about attending a concert that gives back? Local artists Princess K, After the Bar, Dave Quicks Band, NIIC the Singing Dog, Harlowe Jones, TJ McGlinchy, Gene Smith Band, Paul Keen, Minerva and Laura Cheadle will be performing to benefit the PSPCA. The event is named after Cranberry, a pup that was found last holiday season in a trash bag in Fairmount Park and saved.

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Iconic and Modern Art Come Together at the Barnes in 'Kiefer Rodin'

"Reclining Woman" JEROME MANOUKIAN

"Auguste Rodin : Les Cathédrales de France" COURTESY OF GEORGES PONCET.

"Les Cathédrales de France" COURTESY OF CHARLES DUPRAT

New exhibition marks the centennial of "Thinker" sculptor Auguste Rodin's death with new pieces by contemporary artist Anselm Kiefer.

SHAUN BRADY
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Auguste Rodin's most famous sculpture, "The Thinker," is one of the most iconic sights along the Ben Franklin Parkway – just one way in which the legendary artist and Philadelphia are intertwined. Rodin's first exhibition in the U.S. took place in Philly, during the famed Centennial Exhibition of 1876, while students at the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts studied his drawings as far back as 1905.

Now, 100 years after Rodin's death in November 1917, the city adds to that legacy by hosting the only U.S. presentation of the new exhibition "Kiefer Rodin." The show, which will run through March 12 at the Barnes Foundation, features watercolors, drawings, sculptures and assemblages by Rodin, many of them on view in the U.S. for the first time, alongside new pieces by renowned contemporary artist Anselm Kiefer created in response to Rodin's work.

"The exhibition creates a dialogue between these two artists despite the chronological distance between them," says Sophie Patry, who curated the show in collaboration with her colleagues at the Musée Rodin in Paris. "They have many shared interests and themes that you can follow throughout their works. I hope that people will see that, of course, Rodin is still very relevant to us today."

The genesis of "Kiefer Rodin" came via a commission by the Musée Rodin, for Kiefer to create new illustrations for Rodin's only book, "Cathedrals of France." In exploring the Musée's storerooms, Kiefer was struck by their shared interest in the parallels between architecture and the human form, and how the construction and destruction of France's churches resonated with the cycle of human life and its reflection in art.

"Kiefer was really interested in Rodin's

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"Assemblage: Left and Right Arms" CHRISTIAN BARAJA

"Seated Woman with Garment Raised above Her Thighs" JEAN DE CALAN

thinking about the passing of time," Patry explains, "and the idea that architecture is a kind of organic structure. He saw it as a kind of metaphor for human life."

Kiefer's work for the exhibition took three forms: monumental sculpted plaster books featuring watercolor images; a number of vitrines that combine small sculptures and molds from Rodin's work with new elements to create suggestive assemblages; and four large-scale, heavily textures paintings of cathedrals.

The Barnes Foundation, according to Patry, was the ideal U.S. venue for the exhibition for several reasons. Although Dr. Albert Barnes never acquired any Rodin works for his eclectic collection, the juxtaposition of modern and classic works is central to Barnes' offbeat vision. "Barnes' displays speak to the crossroads between artists from different times and who work in different techniques," she says. "Barnes wanted to blur the boundaries between sculpture and painting, between the 16th century and the 20th century, so it seemed to us that this exhibition was an expression of the same idea."

In addition, of course, there's the proximity of Philadelphia's own Rodin Museum, right next door to the Barnes with "The Thinker" perched out front. "Rodin has a strong presence in Philadelphia, so it felt like this was the only place where an audience in the U.S. could have such a broad exposure to his work. If you go to both places you can really grasp Rodin's art and his legacy in the 21st century."

If you go

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Friday, December 8
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

A Christmas Carol, performed by the Philadelphia Artists Collective
Thursday, December 14
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Shakespeare Read-Aloud Group
Saturday, January 6
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Bibliococktails: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*
Friday, January 12
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Mary Shelley, performed by Jennifer Summerfield
Wednesday, January 17
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Yolanda Wisher's Rent Party at the Rosenbach
Thursday, January 18
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Frankenstein, performed by Josh Hitchens
Wednesday, January 24
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Burns Night at the Rosenbach
Thursday, January 25
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

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Winter will already be here, though.

JENNIFER LOGUE
@jenniferlogue
jennifer.logue@metro.us

The early bird catches the worm, and in the case of "Musical Thrones: A Parody of Ice and Fire," a musical parody of the popular HBO show "Game of Thrones," you better snag your tickets now for their February dates in Philly.

The hilariously popular show comes to the Suzanne Roberts Theatre via the Philadelphia Theatre Company (PTC) from Feb. 9-10, 2018, during its 30-city tour.

"'Game of Thrones' is a worldwide cultural phenomenon with fans of every age," says PTC producing artistic director Paige Price. "What better way is there to introduce theatre to new audiences than through a Thrones parody? One of our goals for this season was to present a wider variety of options to Philadelphia theatergoers and we are intentionally offering shows for audiences who may never have considered stepping through our doors. We want audiences to know that live theater is for everyone. Plus, it's my sense that the world could use a little bit of fun these days!"

We could all definitely use a little fun these days, especially in the smack dab of winter. With musical numbers featuring Daenerys, a dragon, Joffrey and the rest of the members of the Lannister and Stark families, you'll be laughing so hard that your winter blues will simply melt away.

In between performances on Saturday, Center City bars will also be hosting a "Game of Thrones"-themed bar crawl. More details will be announced.

If you go:

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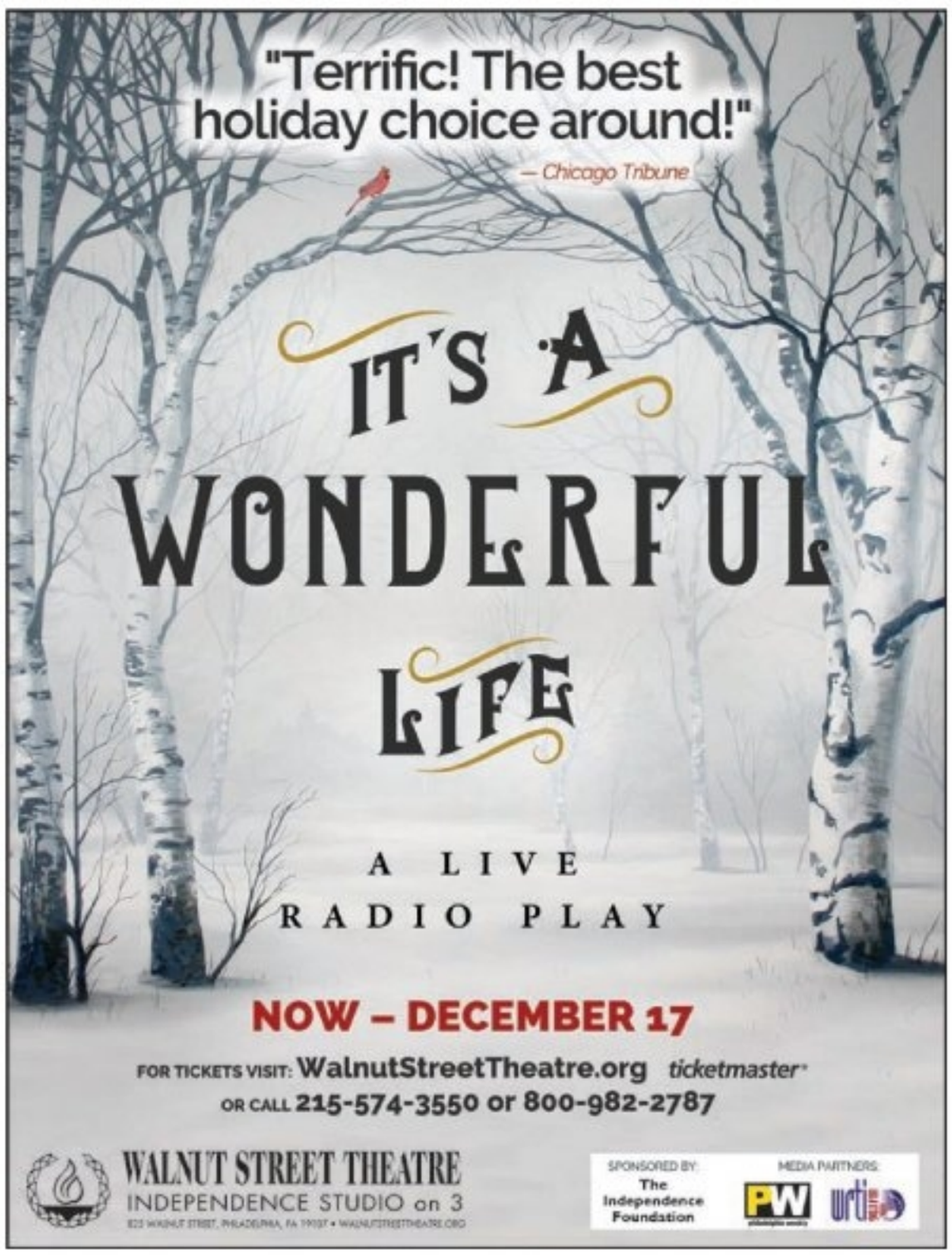
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'A Philly POPS Christmas' spreads cheer at The Kimmel

It's just not Christmas without the POPS.

KYLE HILLER
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

In a city as musically inclined as Philadelphia, it's hard to imagine getting into the spirit without the magic of the Philly POPS. Music Director Michael Krajewski is set to conduct a lineup of arrangements and musicians to kick off the holiday season. This year continues the tradition featuring Philly native and international sensation Justin Hopkins, the Philly POPS Festival Chorus, the Philadelphia Boys Choir, and the award-winning African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Gospel Choir.

Now in its 39th season, the POPS orchestra serves a growing audience of over 150,000 annually. "What I really like is that we have these phenomenal performers who are part of it that makes it so festive," Krajewski said. Entering his fifth season, Krajewski couldn't help but sing the praises of the POPS. "They're great artists, and they're also great people. They love what they do, and they're very eager to be performing in this concert. The audiences can sense that."

Hopkins, who joined the POPS in 2016, has been hailed by the LA Times for his "beautifully focused bass baritone" and "commanding presence onstage." The Philadelphia native is establishing himself as one of the most sought-after and versatile artists on the scene. He fits right in with the POPS' diverse lineup of styles and performances.

"We've been doing new kinds of programs," Krajewski said. "The audience is responding tremendously." The POPS have generated significant growth in ticket sales, attendance, and subscriptions especially over the last few years. Much of that can be attributed to their active community outreach. POPS in Schools has sought to enhance music education for Philadelphia School District students. POPS Outside brought music to local communities. And the POPS will kick off its holiday season with "I'll Be Home for Christmas: A Salute to the Military and First Responders" concert to celebrate the American tradition of service.

The Philly POPS, the largest pops orchestra in America, is proving that the spirit of giving doesn't happen for just one month. It's a year-long event, and their initiatives have been successful in strengthening communities through music, performance and family. "I like the fact that so many people come to this thing," Krajewski added. "Multiple generations and entire families come out and celebrate music."

"A Philly POPS Christmas" plays at the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts, running Dec 1-19. For tickets and more information, visit phillypops.org or call 215-893-1999.

Music Director Michael Krajewski is set to conduct "A Philly Pops Christmas" this year. ALL PHOTOS BY BACHRACH PHOTO

Justin Hopkins, the Philly Pops Festival Chorus, the Philadelphia Boys Choir and the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas Gospel Choir join the Philly Pops for the holiday show.

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Kevin Spacey accused of 20 more counts of inappropriate behavior ... at work

Here's the lowdown from HR at London's Old Vic Theatre.

METRO

The allegations against Kevin Spacey keep coming in. An investigation at the Old Vic, the London theater where 58-year-old Spacey presided as artistic director for 11 years, found 20 personal testimonies accusing the disgraced actor of inappropriate behavior.

The statement released by the theater yesterday says the incidents took place between 1995 and 2013. All but two of the formal complaints were made before 2009. Despite the allegations, no legal claims, formal grievances, formal disputes, settlement agreements or payments were made.

Kevin Spacey's story keeps getting grosser. GETTY IMAGES

Although the statement notes it hasn't been possible to verify all of the allegations, and that Spacey himself hasn't commented, the Old Vic says that Spacey's star power likely discouraged more from stepping forward.

"During his tenure, the Old Vic was in a unique position of having a Hollywood star at the helm around whom existed a cult of personality," reads the venue's official statement. "The investigation found that his stardom and status at the Old Vic may have prevented people, and in particular junior staff or young actors, from feeling that they could speak up or raise a hand for help."

Spacey, of course, has been facing mounting allegations, spearheaded by an interview with "Rent" actor Anthony Rapp, who alleges that when he was just 14, a 26-year-old Spacey made sexual advances toward him. In response, and in an attempt to distract from the charge, Spacey "revealed" that he is gay on Twitter (a fact already widely known in Hollywood).

Since then, more victims have come forward, accusing the "House of Cards" actor of pedophilia and sexual misconduct. Spacey has checked into a swanky rehab facility in Arizona — where, if he chooses, he can do yoga and meditate with Harvey Weinstein, who has also been accused of sexual misconduct and harassment.

The Meadows Addiction Treatment Center, where Spacey is working on his issues, has hosted other celebs claiming to suffer from sex addiction, including Tiger Woods.

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"Justice League"

Director: Zack Snyder
Stars: Ben Affleck, Gal Gadot
Rating: PG-13

●●●●○

You're either in or you're out for a $300 million explosion-palooza comic-book spectacular that sees Batman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Cyborg and The Flash battle to save the planet from imminent catastrophe at a breakneck pace for two hours. As if the DCEU weren't already enough, we're served up grandiose mythology along the lines of the Amazonians and Atlanteans. So it goes without saying we are "all in." The film isn't perfect, though; the villain is threadbare, the use of CGI is questionable, and its stakes, especially in reference to past DCEU films, don't always work. "Justice League" doesn't break the formula, but it has the cast, spectacle and characters to be elevated abiding by it. Only time will tell whether that's enough to appease fans, critics and audiences. But for our money it's definitely worth a watch (preferably as an escape from family-time over the holidays). GREGORY WAKEMAN

"Wonder"

Director: Stephen Chbosky
Stars: Jacob Tremblay, Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson
Rating: PG

●●●○○

Based on the New York Times bestseller, "Wonder" is the two-boxes-of-Kleenex story of a boy (Tremblay, a kid actor talented far beyond his years) with genetic facial deformities entering public school for the first time as a fifth grader, and his doting parents (Roberts and Wilson). Thankfully we're served more than a soppy tale of these three triumphing over prejudice — there are equally strong performances by the supporting cast. In fact, our hero (Tremblay's "Auggie") has a big sister with an equally enthralling storyline. Hallmark Channel-worthy? Kinda. But it's hard not to appreciate a well-earned waterworks moment now and then, which "Wonder" provides in spades. GW

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"Mudbound"

Director: Dee Rees
Stars: Carey Mulligan, Jason Clarke, Jason Mitchell, Mary J. Blige
Rating: N/R

●●●●◖

Netflix is banking on a boatload of awards for "Mudbound," and rightfully so. This sweeping adaptation of the book by the same name focuses on two veterans returning to the Jim Crow South after fighting for their country in WWII. Only, whose country is it? The Jacksons (Mitchell and Blige) are African American, and the McAllans (Mulligan and Clarke) are white. Despite both men laying their lives on the line, racism and poverty make for a cruel, violent homecoming. The performances are strong, the cinematography is breathtaking and the poignant story will make a lasting impact (though be prepared to be terribly uncomfortable at times). Available on Netflix and showing in select theaters Nov. 17. GW

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Racism, war and more in Oscar shoo-in 'Mudbound'

This Netflix epic focuses on "building a bridge and not a wall."

GREGORY WAKEMAN
@MetroPhilly
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Hedlund and Mitchell in Dee Ree's epic drama. NETFLIX

Jason Mitchell is immensely proud of "Mudbound," in which he plays a lead character called Ronsel Jackson. Not just because the film is a sweeping, ambitious epic that provides a detailed snapshot of a period seldom seen on screen, but because it confronts issues that have blighted this country from the beginning.

"It's an American story," Mitchell says. "And American history is very taboo. A lot of people have their way of feeling about the slaves being freed, about Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, the British — about all these different things that helped to create America. But they all have an undertone that people never really want to talk about, and that's race."

GETTY IMAGES

Audiences will find that race is squarely in focus when they watch "Mudbound." "It pulls no punches, but leaves you with a breath of fresh air," continues Mitchell. "You don't leave the film wanting to kill somebody. It ends with love. Creating static between people makes this magnetic energy, and then you want to start a dialogue — this is stuff people normally sweep under the rug."

For all of the cathartic and necessary conversations "Mudbound" will no doubt inspire, it was not at all an easy project for cast and crew. "We had 28 days to shoot," shares Mitchell. "It surprises people that it was shot in that time. Plus, we lost some of those (days) due to weather. We were dealing with tornadoes, lightning storms and rain. But the environment and the elements really played into it."

Mitchell's costar, Garrett Hedlund, plays Jamie McAllan, and the character truly resonated with the actor. Both have farming and war stories as a part of their DNA.

But more than a story of war, of PTSD, of division and inequality, both actors hope "Mudbound" is a story of inspiration.

"So many times with films on this subject the consensus has been made — they demonize white people, victimize black people, and it makes it such a thing that we aren't co-existing," says Mitchell. "But we are all in this together."

Hedlund added "This is the portrait of a period. Of families that are brought to odds in this time of brutal social hierarchy, but are brought together by a land in the Mississippi Delta."

"Mudbound" will be released on Netflix on Nov. 17.

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3 Things to watch for as rested Eagles host beat-up Cowboys

A healthy ego?

The Eagles have the second best odds to win the Super Bowl at 5-2 (behind the Patriots). They are off to their best start since their last trip to the Super Bowl in 2004 and are in the top 5 in nearly every important measurable category for success in the NFL. The city is starting to believe the team could be special. How is the team holding up?

"My job is to make sure that we stay focused and stay grounded," Eagles head coach Doug Pederson said. "We've just got to continue to stay with the one-game mentality. That's been a good formula for us this season. We can't get looking down the road and upcoming opponents and scenarios. That's for the media to speculate on and talk about."

Unhealthy Dallas

Things couldn't have worked out any better for Philadelphia ahead of their first tilt against the Cowboys. Ezekiel Elliott — arguably one of the NFL's three best running backs — was finally forced to start serving his six-game suspension last week and will not be playing Sunday. Dallas' leader on defense, linebacker Sean Lee, will not be playing either as he needs a few weeks to recooperate from a hamstring injury. Star tackle Tyron Smith is working his way back, but a big chance exists Dak Prescott will be without one of the best in the game yet again. And to make things even worse, wide receiver Dez Bryant has also not been practicing.

All of this makes the situation dire for the 5-4 Cowboys, who are fighting and clawing to stay in playoff contention. But it still won't be easy for the Eagles. At least that's what Schwartz is telling his defense.

"We saw that in the last game last year," the coach said. "We didn't see Elliott and we didn't see Tyron Smith. So, I mean, certainly not worse to play them without those guys."

The Eagles can move to 9-1 and remain perfect in the NFC East with a win Sunday night in Dallas. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

A healthy roster

The Eagles' injury report is extremely short, and for the first time all season everyone on the roster will more or less be ready to play Sunday. Of course, staples Jason Peters and Jordan Hicks are still out for the season on the injured reserve, but the NFL's best tight end Zach Ertz and the Eagles top young cornerback Ronald Darby are each expected to suit up in Week 11. That will certainly help.

"He's trending the right way," defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz said of Darby, who hurt his ankle in Week 1. The status of both players won't be confirmed until gameday.

EVAN MACY

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Local beer 'Dallas Sucks' fuels renewed Eagles-Cowboys rivalry

Created for tailgaters, brew faces rival Texas blend "Eagle Tears" this Sunday.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
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After the 2017 season ends, the beer will be back for the 2018 season next fall. PHOTO COURTESY OF WEYERBACHER

People in Philadelphia really dislike people in Dallas. And it's pretty much completely football-related.

About a year ago, Eagles superfan and Weyerbacher Brewery Chief Operating Officer Josh Lampe was behind the counter at Jose Pistola's — a Center City bar — and he got an idea.

"We were hanging out, and on the point of sales system it said 'Dallas sucks,'" Lampe said. "And I thought 'we should totally do beer, a collaboration.'"

A few months later, Dallas Sucks, a 4.5 percent pale ale — brewed succinctly for the light beer purpose of tailgating — was born.

"So that was it, spur of the moment and we decided to brew it," Lampe said of his Easton area Brewery that serves many bars in center city. "We are all football fans. We know how tailgates go. You're going to have more than one and you want something that's not going to put you under that table."

The beer is front and center this week as the Eagles prepare to head southwest to face bitter rivals the Cowboys on Sunday Night Football. The rivalry has become more prominent over the last two seasons, with second-year quarterbacks Carson Wentz and Dak Prescott ascending into two of the best in the NFL.

But the rivalry is nothing new

"I can remember back when I played here in 1999, it was all week long," Eagles head coach Doug Pederson said, remembering his days as a quarterback in the city. "It was like you just [say], 'I don't care what else happens the rest of the year, you just have to beat the Cowboys.' That's the mindset of the city and it is. I mean, listen, they're 2-0, we're 3-0 in the division, and it's a very important football game for both teams. It should be a great football game as it always is."

Lampe grew up in the Philly suburbs and knows everything there is to know about the rivalry. And thanks to Nobel Rey Brewing Company outside Dallas, he's now had a direct impact on the dueling banter between the two proud fan bases.

"We have gotten nationwide attention," Lampe, whose Dallas Sucks beer will be available through the end of the season, said. "There's a brewery in Dallas that brewed a response beer called 'Eagle Tears.' We have a bet going Sunday if the Eagles win they have to take a photo of themselves in an Eagles jersey and post on it on facebook and if Dallas wins I have to wear a jersey."

The Eagles are 3.5 point favorites on the road in Texas.

"I haven't bought a jersey," Lampe said with confidence.

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After scoring 46 points in LA, what is Embiid's ceiling?

The Sixers are back home Saturday, hosting the Warriors at 7:30 p.m. GETTY IMAGES

Wednesday in Los Angeles, Joel Embiid had a career night. His stat line is awe-inspiring.

The second-year center scored 46 points and had 15 rebounds, seven assists, seven blocks, and made 14-of 20 shots from the field as well as 16-of-19 from the free throw line. It's worth noting that in a close game, 19 of Embiid's points came in the fourth quarter.

That's a career night for 99 percent of NBA players. But for Embiid, it came in career game No. 41.

A statline like Wednesday's, with 40-plus points and at least 15 rebounds, seven assists and seven blocks was last achieved by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. His stats came with the help of four overtimes. Embiid's came in 34 minutes.

In all, Embiid has scored 78 points over two nights in Los Angeles against the Clippers and Lakers. That is 24 more points than Lakers rookie Lonzo Ball has total at the Staples Center.

"It feels great," Embiid said. "I love L.A. I love the Staples Center, so I wanted to come out here and put on a show and I did. Too bad there wasn't any trash-talker out there. But I still had fun and I got going. I just wanted to be aggressive. That's my new mentality. I can't wait to keep the same momentum."

After Wednesday's 115-109 win, Embiid took to Twitter and Instagram poking fun at Ball and the lowly Lakers — as has become his style since being drafted in 2014.

The incredible performance begs the question. How good can Embiid be?

Even at his worst, Embiid is a sure double-double and a force on defense, effecting the shots of nearly everyone on the floor. Though turnovers and poor shot selection has been a problem in the early going this year, Wednesday's breakout performance sets a new bar. The Sixers may have gotten a steal by inking the 24-year-old to an extension before this season was in the books, with Philly 8-6 and looking like a playoff contender.

Embiid has played with a minutes restriction through his first 39 games, but earlier this week set a career high playing 36 minutes. It seems as though the incredible output Embiid posted when playing just 22 minutes per game actually can translate to an entire game's worth of minutes. If healthy, the 7-foot-3 Cameroonian looks like a sure perennial All-Star who has the potential to post 40 points at the drop of a hat.

The rest of the roster has been, and will continue to be build around Embiid — with pass-first 6-foot-10 point guard Ben Simmons and newly extended 3-and-D specialist Robert Covington sure to be here for the long haul.

The future has never been brighter for the Sixers. If you need proof, watch highlights from Wednesday. It's undeniable. EVAN MACY

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There are a lot of important games with playoff implications in Week 11. GETTY IMAGES

NFL's best bets for NFL Week 11

A gambling guide for your NFL weekend.

ROBERT CRISCOLA
@MetroPhilly
sports@metro.us

The Ravens, Chiefs and Seahawks should take advantage of being well-rested in Week 11.

Ravens (-2) at Packers
Green Bay hasn't given up on the season but they're just 1-2 in the Brett Hundley era, with the lone win coming last week against the Bears.

The Ravens, fresh off a bye week, present a far sterner test for Hundley, as they rank third in passing yards allowed. Baltimore's pass rush should have the rookie QB under duress as well, as Green Bay's O-line is fifth-worst by sacks allowed this year. Look for a rested Joe Flacco to connect on some deep throws while his defense keeps the Packers in check.
The pick: Ravens -2

Chiefs (-10.5) at Giants
Andy Reid's Chiefs travel to MetLife Stadium off a bye week, and as we've all heard over the course of many years, Reid excels at having his team prepared off extra rest (16-2). This team has also trended favorably on the road, covering in eight of their last 10 away from home.

The Giants appear to have cratered after allowing the previously winless 49ers to best them last week. Their defense was a source of pride last season but is now among the worst units in the league (28th by PPG allowed). A dramatic mismatch in yards per play (Kansas City's offense ranks first while New York's defense is 31st) means Alex Smith's receivers will be breaking big gains all game long.
The pick: Chiefs -10.5

Falcons at Seahawks (-3)
The Seahawks suffered several injuries against the Cardinals last Thursday, the most devastating one being cornerback Richard Sherman (Achilles), who is done for the season. However, left tackle Duane Brown and safety Earl Thomas ere expected to play. The Falcons appeared to right the ship against the depleted Cowboys last week, but they suffered a significant injury of their own in Devonta Freeman.

Russell Wilson and his second-ranked aerial attack should have their way with the Falcons. They are the best bet of the week.
The pick: Seahawks -3

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24 Campaign event
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32 Say "yeth"
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34 Easily handled
39 Barely make it
40 Persona non --
41 Beat the field
42 Appoint
45 Was sincere
47 Stunt
48 Supermarket gizmo
50 Leaves (2 wds.)
54 Attack
55 Shady resting place
56 Sketch
58 White lie
59 Figure
62 First name in glue
66 Friend or --?
67 Brown pigment
68 Mercutio's pal
69 Wind up
70 Desperado's fear
71 Like a punk hairdo

Down
1 Sweet potato
2 Dollar bill
3 And, to Fritz
4 Border river
5 Quivering dessert
6 Short pencil
7 Safari country
8 Happy sighs
9 Kickoff stand
10 Strangest
11 Asian capital
12 Look a long time
13 Unclad
21 Drone or worker
23 Wine valley
24 Cubed
25 Call to mind
26 Archaeologist's finds
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38 -- nous
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43 In that case (2 wds.)
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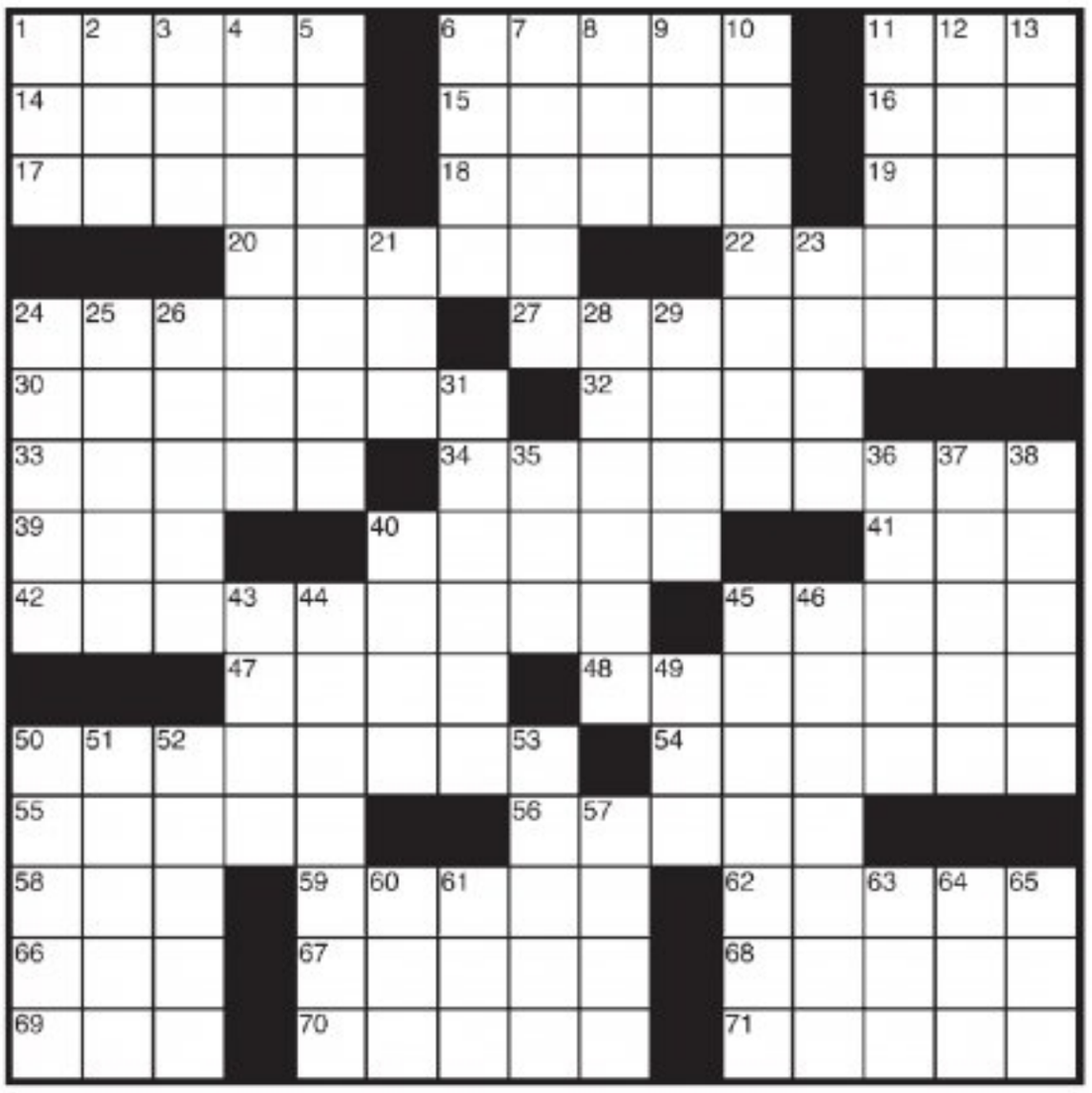

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		5			1	2		

hard

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5								9
	4	3				8	1	7
	3							8
4		5		9				
9				3	2		6	

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Aries A relationship will take a turn. Listen to what's being offered and consider your options. The alternatives you come up with will spark interest.

Taurus Get together with the people you find mentally stimulating or participate in an activity that gives you the chance to blow off steam.

Gemini Take care of your responsibilities, whether work-related or involving a pet, friend in need or health issues. Don't slack off when something should be done.

Cancer Get out with friends, do a little shopping or spend time on personal maintenance. Expanding self-awareness will give you a new perspective on life, love and happiness.

Leo Look over your assets and anything else you need to protect. Be creative regarding money, legal matters and your health. Curb bad habits.

Virgo Taking a short trip or spending time with friends or relatives will be insightful. Greater self-awareness will help you relate better to a partner.

Libra Look for a unique way to solve a professional problem. Incorporate your skill and knowledge into something that can help you boost your income.

Scorpio Express your feelings and share your thoughts about how you want to move forward personally. An opportunity to change your life will come from an unusual source.

Sagittarius If you get together with someone you have worked with in the past, new ideas will sprout. A chance to be a part of something that interests you will be enticing.

Capricorn If you take it upon yourself to put in extra time and effort, you will reap the rewards. A chance to do something different will be enlightening.

Aquarius Throw your time into a creative project or hide away and rejuvenate. You need time to digest what's going on before you strike out against someone.

Pisces A joint venture with someone special will improve your current position and prospects. Discuss the possibilities and celebrate your good fortune. EUGENIA LAST

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